(a) the total number of cases registered by CBI against in Coal Mafia in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the details of cases processed during the last three years and outcome of investigation alongwith the action taken thereon;

(c) the details of pending cases and the reasons for delay; and

(d) the details of action taken by the Government to curb the growing activities of coal mafias and result achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Appointment of Judges

5521. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to appoint some more judges with a view to settle the delays in the court work due to engagement of several judges in cases of corruption etc. and piling of other cases in the Supreme Court and High Courts; and

(b) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) Judge strength of High Courts is reviewed once in three years and the next review is due in 1998. While there is no proposal to create new posts, action is under way to fill up existing vacancies of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts.

[English]

Growth rate in Export and Import

5522. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the growth of export and import during each of the last three years and the resultant trade deficit;

(b) the target set and achieved during the eighth Plan period;

(c) the target set for Ninth Plan period; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure achievement during the Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) As per the DGCI&S data, exports imports and trade deficit for the last three years is as under:

US $ Million

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (P)
Imports	28654	36678	38548
Exports	26330	31797	33106
Trade Deficit	-2324	-4881	-5442

(b) and (c) The Eighth Five Year Plan document envisaged a growth rate of 13.6% per annum in real terms for exports of goods during the Plan period. As per the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), the export growth rate during Eighth Plan is placed at 11.4% per annum and for the Ninth Plan, export growth rate per annum of 14.5% has been visualised under accelerated growth scenario.

(d) Export promotion is a continuous process and steps are initiated by the Government to promote exports through simplification of policies and procedures, improving bilateral trade, debottlenecking of export infrastructure, and enhancing the quality and competitive edge of Indian products.

Fire in Coal Mines

5523. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coal mines fields under fire at present, State-wise;

(b) the number of people affected in view of the various problems of the fire; and

(c) the measures taken to extinguish the fire and save the lives of the affected people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Isolated but controlled fire exists in 99 coal mines of Coal India Limited (CIL). There is no case of fire existing in any mine of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL). State-wise break-up of mines under CIL where such fire is persisting is as under:-

State	No. of mines where fire exists
Bihar	74
West Bengal	16
Orissa	1
Madhya Pradesh	7
Maharashtra	1